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June 24 85

James H. Mathes, Executive Vice-President  
 New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce  
 838 Purchase Street  
 P. O. Box G-827  
 New Bedford, MA 02742

Dear Mr. Mathes:

Thank you for your letter of May 22, 1985, with your enclosed "PCB White Paper". As you know, EPA has recently decided to conduct further technical studies before selecting a remedy for the PCBs in New Bedford. We are also conducting a study of PCB transport in the harbor which is scheduled for completion next year. Until completion of these studies, it would be premature for EPA to comment at length on the appropriate remedy.

Enclosed are copies of EPA's most recent fact sheet on New Bedford PCBs, and EPA's public information pamphlet. You may also be interested in the records of EPA's many public rulemaking concerning PCBs.

For your convenience, I am enclosing copies of two recent examples of such records published in the Federal Register, 49 Fed. Reg. 28154-28209 (July 10, 1984), and 47 Fed. Reg. 37342-37360 (August 25, 1982). You may also wish to review the enclosed copy of the Food and Drug Administration's decision lowering its tolerance for PCBs in fish from 5 parts per million to 2, which was published in the Federal Register at 49 Fed. Reg. 21514-21520 (May 22, 1984).

If you have further questions, please feel free to get in touch with Debra Prybyla of our Public Affairs Office, at (617) 223-4906.

Sincerely,

Merrill S. Hohman, Director  
 Waste Management Division

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